Amend 74.1201 (g) for translators rebroadcasting Class A FM stations

Comments of Alan Bishop, President of the Fingerlakes Radio Group, Inc. and Chadwick Bay Broadcasting Corporation.

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My two companies are licensees of 5 AM and 4 FM radio stations in upstate New York. We use translators extensively for our AM stations to increase coverage to rural areas. When the rules were changed allowing the 60 dBu contour of a translator to extend out 25 miles from the AM transmitter, it was a game changer for some of my AM stations. However, my 4 Class A FM radio stations are now at a disadvantage.

Today, the 60 dBu contour of translators that rebroadcast Class A FM's can only extend out to the 60 dBu contour of that Class A FM. That is approximately 17.6 miles. AM stations can extend out to 25 miles so Class A FM's are now inferior to AM stations when it comes to translator coverage. Those translators can be used to serve communities that may be blocked by terrain or other interference.

I propose to level the playing field by amending 74.1201 (g) to allow the 60 dBu contour of an FM translator to extend out to 25 miles from the tower of the originating FM station. All other contour protection rules for translators would remain intact.

This is a very simple change that would allow thousands of Class A FM owners to better serve their communities.